

A Message For Everyone

A long march for peace, that has taken a petite, silver-haired woman some 25,000 miles throughout the United States, Canada and parts of Mexico came to a very temporary halt in Alice last Friday with the arrival of "Peace Pilgrim," a living witness to mankind's endless desire for inner and outer tranquility.

"Peace Pilgrim" (she gave up her real name in 1953 when she set out on her quest) has devoted the past 23 years of her life to spreading a non-sectarian, international, inter-faith approach to peace among nations and friendship among individuals.

Her message which she has spread to religious, civic and

special groups throughout the 50 states, 10 provinces of Canada and northern Mexico is of pristine simplicity.

"If you desire peace," she says in her gentle, non-accented voice, "you must be peaceful. If you desire friendship, you must be friendly. Have as your objective the resolving of conflict, not the mere gaining of advantage."

Interviewed after a full weekend addressing Alice High School students, participating in the Sunday morning services of the First United Methodist Church and being interviewed on radio and local television, Peace Pilgrim stated she felt when it came to the concept of friendliness, Alice stood very high among the communities she had visited along her 25,000 mile treke. She will be featured speaker at the Rotary Club here on Wednesday.

"When I first started out," she said with a twinkle in her eye, "I found the western part of the United States the most receptive to new ideas, to novel approaches and to extend me a warm welcome wherever I went.

"The closer I came to New England," she continued, "the attitudes were more set, more frosty, though never really antagonistic. Now, as I continue my pilgrimage, I find a wider range of acceptance throughout the country."

When asked whether she missed being part of a specific religious congregation, Peace Pilgrim smilingly replied she did not feel it necessary to be a part of a part, when she

already considered herself to be a part of the whole of peace-loving mankind.

The visitor walks without a penny in her pocket. Not the slightest hint of commercialism tinges her approach. She emphatically refuses any remuneration for her talks or appearances. Relying solely on the hospitality and good will of those among whom she wanders, she moves from community to community, often earning her keep by typing chores or caring for the mentally ill, with whom she has a striking rapport.

The raucous clamor of the women's liberation movement leaves Peace Pilgrim with a bemused smile.

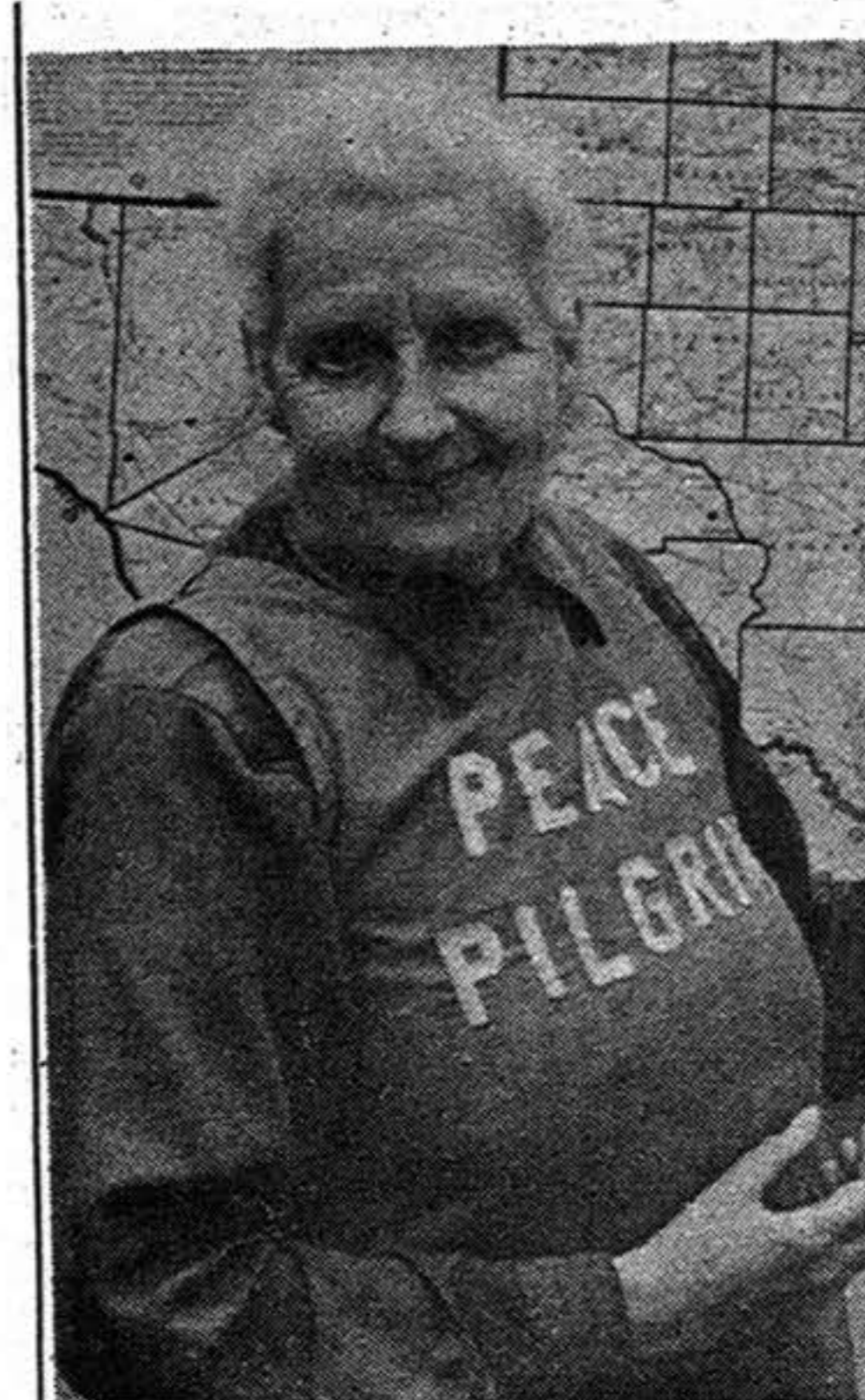
"I considered myself liberated long before it became the fashion," she commented. "First I liberated myself from

debilitating habits, and went on to free myself of combative, aggressive thoughts. I have also cast aside any unnecessary possessions. This, I feel, is true liberation."

She mentioned, by way of accounting for her lack of any regional accent she had once, in her wanderings came through the city of her birth. While spreading her message, a native of the city, not acquainted with her background told her, "Anyone would know you're not from here by the way you talk." She did not correct him, feeling the comment was something of a compliment.

How long will she continue her pilgrimage?

"I shall remain a wanderer until mankind has learned the ways of peace!" she replied with quiet assurance.



PEACE PILGRIM